

Message Text

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ACTION STR-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-10
INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 CTME-00
AID-05 SS-15 ITC-01 TRSE-00 ICA-11 SP-02 SOE-02
OMB-01 DOE-15 /126 W
-----096114 281930Z /64

P 281855Z APR 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9021
INFO AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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USMTN

ACTION STR PASS ELECTRONICALLY FOR SCHMITZ AND LAPITTUS

STR PASS CODEL

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, MTN
SUBJECT: MTN: BILATERAL WITH AUSTRIA ON US TARIFF OFFER

1. US DEL (MOORE) MET AT AUSTRIAN DEL'S (SEGALLA) REQUEST TO DISCUSS US OFFER ON AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL TARIFFS. SEGALLA EXPLAINED THAT CHEESE (TSUS NO'S 11760, 11781 AND 11785) WHICH MAKESUP OVER 70 PERCENT OF AUSTRIAN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS TO THE US IS ONLY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT FOR WHICH AUSTRIA WILL BE SEEKING IMPROVED ACCESS IN US MARKET. HE STATED THAT BECAUSE CURRENT DUTIES ARE ALREADY LOW, AUSTRIA'S CONCERN IS WITH CVD WAIVER ON SWISS AND EMMENTHALER CHEESE AND USG ACTION AFTER WAIVER EXPIRES. AUSTRIA'S REQUEST IS THAT INJURY TEST BE INCLUDED IN US CVD LAW; AND IF THIS CHANGE IS NOT POSSIBLE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUSTRIA WOULD MAKE NO AGRICULTURAL CONCESSIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE TO US. US DEL REPLIED THAT ANY CHANGE IN US CVD LAW COULD ONLY BE CONSIDERED IF SATISFACTORY OUTCOME IS ACHIEVED IN EXPORT SUBSIDY NEGOTIATIONS. SEGALLA ACKNOWLEDGED THIS AND INDICATED THAT SINCE AGREEMENT BEFORE JULY IS UNLIKELY IN SUBSIDY NEGOTIATIONS, AUSTRIA WOULD BE MAKING NO RESPONSE TO US AGRICULTURAL REQUESTS BEFORE

THAT DATE.

2. ON TECHNICAL POINT, SEGALLA INDICATED THAT AUSTRIAN EXPORT FIGURES DO NOT MATCH UP WITH US IMPORT STATISTICS FOR SEVERAL AGRICULTURAL ITEMS. HE SAID THAT NO AUSTRIAN EXPORTS TO THE US ARE RECORDED IN 1976 FOR GOODS FALLING IN TSUS NO'S 10075 - HORSES, LIVE; 14881 - PEARS, FRESH OR IN BRINE; AND 74025 - CUT NATURAL FLOWERS, DRIED, BLEACHED.

3. ON NON-AGRICULTURAL TARIFFS, SEGALLA INDICATED AUSTRIA'S INTENTION IS TO TABLE OFFER IN MID-MAY APPLYING SWISS FORMULA WITH COEFFICIENT OF 16 AND 60 PERCENT MAXIMUM REDUCTION WITH NO INITIAL EXCEPTIONS. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION, SEGALLA INDICATED THAT AUSTRIAN EXCEPTIONS WHICH WILL FOLLOW ARE NOT TO BE CONSIDERED WITHDRAWALS, BUT WILL BE ECONOMIC EXCEPTIONS AIMED AT REDUCING INITIAL DEPTH OF CUT OF 57 PERCENT TO APPROXIMATELY 40 PERCENT.

4. SEGALLA RAISED GENERAL QUESTIONS REGARDING US OFFER ITEMS STILL TO BE SPECIFIED, BUT MENTIONED ONLY ONE LINE ITEM UNDER ASP VALUATION--TSUS 70060 - OTHER FOOTWEAR, NES. NEARLY ALL OF REMAINING QUESTIONS FOCUSED ON US MANDATORY EXCEPTIONS OF SPECIALTY STEEL AND FOOTWEAR. ITEMS OF SPECIAL INTEREST INDICATED BY SEGALLA WERE SKI BOOTS (TSUS NO. 70058) AND FOOTWEAR OF WOOD (TSUS NO. 70083). US DEL EXPLAINED THAT AT PRESENT TIME, USG HAD NO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE ANY REDUCTIONS ON SUCH ITEMS AND THAT PRESIDENT HAD AUTHORITY TO ORDER EVALUATION OF EXISTING RELIEF MEASURES TO DECIDE WHETHER RELIEF SHOULD BE CONTINUED OR NOT. A RECENT ITC STUDY ON SPECIALTY STEEL RESULTED IN CONTINUATION OF RELIEF WITH ONLY MINOR CHANGES AND, IT IS DIFFICULT TO PREDICT WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN JUNE 1979 WHEN THE EXISTING RELIEF IS SCHEDULED TO END.

5. FYI: AUSTRIA HAS MADE AVAILABLE TO US DEL A COPY OF 1976 IMPORT AND TARIFF COMPUTER TAPE. A COPY IS BEING POUCHED TO STR ATTENTION JERRY LAPITTUS. END FYI.

6. DRAFTED BY MOORE. CULBERT

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY, TARIFFS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978GENEVA06495
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780182-0743
Format: TEL
From: GENEVA USMTN
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978046/aaaaaend.tel
Line Count: 108
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: c46ba1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION STR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2977137
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MTN: BILATERAL WITH AUSTRIA ON US TARIFF OFFER
TAGS: ETRD, AU, GATT, MTN
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/c46ba1b0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014